



101 N. 14TH STREET, 17<sup>TH</sup> FL.  
RICHMOND, VA 23219

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

*Michael Dick,  
Chairman*

*Thuraya Kent,  
Vice Chair*

*Victor Angry*

*David Ashe*

*Delegate Jason Ballard*

*Carl Bedell*

*Senator John Bell*

*Joe R. Campa*

*Delegate Mike Cherry*

*Mario Flores*

*Delegate Buddy Fowler*

*Joyce Henderson*

*James P. Inman*

*Carlton Kent*

*John Lesinski*

*Senator Mamie Locke*

*Terence E. McKnight*

*Delegate Kathleen  
Murphy*

*Kathy Owens*

*Senator Bryce Reeves*

*Melissa Watts*

*Denice Williams*

*Chair, Joint  
Leadership Council of  
Veterans Service  
Organizations*

*Paul Haughton  
Chair, Veterans  
Services Foundation*

*Rick St. John  
Vice Chair, Virginia  
War Memorial  
Foundation*

*Daniel M. Gade, PhD,  
Commissioner, Virginia  
Department of  
Veterans Services*

### REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MAY 9, 2023

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on April 27, 2023, at the chapel of Amelia State Cemetery. We welcomed RADM (Ret) Terence McKnight as the newest member of the BVS. We also reported that Ms. Susan Riveland resigned from the Board. We appreciate all the hard work Ms. Riveland accomplished during her time with the BVS, to include her outstanding contributions with the Veterans in the Arts effort.

Commissioner Gade provided an update on DVS operations. The Commissioner discussed several recent positive actions for the agency, to include enhanced data that will support identification of and outreach to Virginia's veterans, the launch of the digital hub for veteran services, the passing of the Women Veterans license plate during the 2023 General Assembly Session, and the new DVS appointment scheduling application available on the DVS website. The Commissioner also noted efforts to address recruitment and retention within the agency and future efforts to link Virginia Values Veterans (V3) companies with Virginia's veterans to increase hiring opportunities.

Commissioner Gade revealed the new Virginia is for Veterans logo and we look forward to proudly displaying it across the Commonwealth.

I provided updated draft Point of Contact (POC) Report assignments to the members and discussed POC responsibilities related to this year's reporting. We also discussed the need to re-invigorate Working Group (WG) activities. I asked the leaders of the WGs (Metrics, Benefits, and Education) to review the composition of their WG and to assess how best to move forward with addressing the WG's mission and goals. Additionally, members were provided with a copy of the updated BVS Member Handbook that includes the mission of the Board and member responsibilities.

The next BVS meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2023, at the American Legion Building in Richmond.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dick  
Chairman